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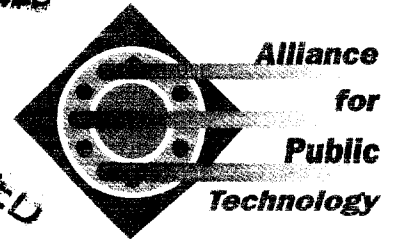
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 18, 1998

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DEC 22 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM



Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation in CC Docket No. 98-146;  
In the Matter of Inquiry concerning the Deployment of  
Advanced Telecommunications Capability to all  
Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and  
Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant  
to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed please find for placement on the public record in the above-captioned proceeding, two copies of a letter to Chairman Kennard dated December 17, 1998 supporting the high technology and local telephone industries' principles for promoting widespread deployment of advanced telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen A. Lewis".

Maureen A. Lewis  
General Counsel

Enclosures

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List A B C D E

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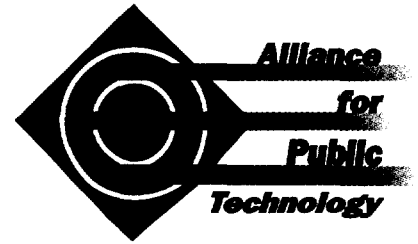
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December 17, 1998

## DELIVERED BY HAND

The Honorable William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DEC 22 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: Joint Principles of the Computer and Local Telephone  
Industries for Promoting Widespread Deployment of Advanced  
Services; Ex Parte Presentation in Docket No. 98-146

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The Alliance for Public Technology (APT), a non-profit organization comprised of consumer leaders and organizations, applauds the cooperation between the local telephone industry and the high technology industry intended to foster deployment of advanced telecommunications services to the home. The agreement on principles to promote widespread deployment of advanced networks announced on December 7, 1998, is an exciting development towards APT's goal that advanced telecommunications services reach all residential consumers.

The inter-industry coalition that developed the principles recognizes the importance of nationwide deployment of high-speed, high capacity networks envisioned by Section 706 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. As you know, APT has consistently urged the FCC to implement the provision so that all members of society could enjoy the life enhancing benefits of advanced telecommunications technologies.

The Commission is now contemplating deregulatory action to encourage the deployment of advanced telecommunications services to all Americans. Therefore, APT asks the Commission to build upon the computer and local telephone industries' teamwork by establishing policies that extend the partnership to include community leaders. Together, prospective buyers and sellers of advanced telecommunications products and services will develop applications that address important life needs of underserved

communities. As APT has previously stated in this proceeding, we believe that the communities' aggregated demand for these applications will help to pull advanced infrastructure investment into markets that providers have traditionally overlooked.

APT's recommendation requires the type of collaboration that members of the high technology and local exchange carrier industries have demonstrated with their joint principles. It provides the Commission with the opportunity again to exercise its leadership by adopting pro-active policies that involve communities and companies in the critical effort to ensure that broadband deployment reaches every home in the country. Perhaps then the threat of the "digital divide" between information "haves and have nots" will disappear as this century ends and the Information Age begins.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Maureen A. Lewis".

Maureen A. Lewis  
General Counsel

cc: Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott Roth  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Lawrence E. Strickling, Chief, Common Carrier Bureau  
Carol Matthey, Chief, Policy and Program Planning Division  
Common Carrier Bureau